

Interstate 80 Three Mile Truck Climbing Lane Project

PLACER COUNTY, CALIFORNIA
DISTRICT 3 – PLA – 80 (PM 35.1/38.3)
EA 1F400, EFIS 0300020420

INITIAL STUDY WITH PROPOSED MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION



**Prepared by the
State of California Department of Transportation**



December 2013

General Information about This Document

What's in this document:

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has prepared this Initial Study (IS), which examines the potential environmental impacts of the alternative being considered for the proposed project located in Placer County, California. Caltrans is the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The document tells you why the project is being proposed, what alternatives we have considered for the project, how the existing environment could be affected by the project, the potential impacts of each of the alternatives, and the proposed avoidance, minimization, and/or mitigation measures.

What you should do:

- Please read the document.
- Additional copies of the document and the technical studies we relied on in preparing it, are available for review at the Caltrans District 3 Sacramento office at 2379 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 150, Sacramento, CA 95833, and at the Colfax Public Library at 10 West Church Street. This document may also be downloaded at the following website: www.dot.ca.gov/dist3/Projects/.
- Attend the public workshop at the Colfax Train Depot, 99 Railroad Street, Colfax (in the meeting room), Weds., March 5, 2014, from 5 pm to 7 pm.
- We'd like to hear what you think. If you have any comments regarding the proposed project, please attend the public workshop and/or send your written comments to Caltrans by the deadline.
- Submit comments via postal mail to:
Eric Fredericks, Environmental Branch Chief, Attention: Ken Lastufka
Department of Transportation, Environmental Planning
2379 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 150, Sacramento, CA 95833
- Submit comments via email to: ken_lastufka@dot.ca.gov.
- Be sure to submit comments by the deadline: March 17, 2014

What happens next:

After comments are received from the public and reviewing agencies, Caltrans may: (1) give environmental approval to the proposed project, (2) do additional environmental studies, or (3) abandon the project. If the project is given environmental approval and funding is appropriated, Caltrans could design and construct all or part of the project.

For individuals with sensory disabilities, this document can be made available in Braille, in large print, on audiocassette, or on computer disk. To obtain a copy in one of these alternate formats, please call or write to Department of Transportation, Attn: Ken Lastufka, Office of Environmental Management, 2379 Gateway Oaks Dr, Suite 150, Sacramento, CA 95833-93401; (916) 274-0586 Voice, or use the California Relay Service by dialing 711, or (800) 735-2929 (TTY to Voice) or (800) 735-2922 (Voice to TTY).

SCH Number: _____
03-PLA-80 PM 35.1-38.3
EA 1F400 / Project Number 0300020420

Construct an East-Bound Truck Climbing Lane on Interstate 80 between Long Ravine
Underpass (PM 35.1) and Alpine Overcrossing-Secret Town Road (PM 38.3)
in Placer County, California

Initial Study with Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration

Submitted Pursuant to: (State) Division 13, California Public Resources Code

THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Department of Transportation

12/31/2013

Date of Approval

John D. Webb

John D. Webb
Chief, North Region Environmental Services
California Department of Transportation
CEQA Lead Agency

PROPOSED MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

Pursuant to: Division 13, Public Resources Code

Project Description

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes to widen shoulders, construct a 12' wide 3-mile long truck climbing lane on eastbound Interstate 80 (I-80) in Placer County between Long Ravine Underpass (UP) (PM 35.1) and Alpine Overcrossing (OC)-Secret Town Road (PM 38.3), and replace and widen the Cape Horn undercrossing. The section of the interstate is a divided freeway with narrow shoulders and a 5% grade uphill.

Determination

This proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) is included to give notice to interested agencies and the public that it is Caltrans' intent to adopt a MND for this project. This does not mean that Caltrans' decision regarding the project is final. This MND is subject to modification based on comments received by interested agencies and the public.

Caltrans has prepared an Initial Study for this project, and pending public review, expects to determine from this study that the proposed project would not have a significant effect on the environment for the following reasons:

- The proposed project would have no effect on air quality, cultural resources, floodplain, community, Public services, population and housing, agriculture and forestry, land use and planning, growth, recreation, paleontology, and pedestrian and bicycle facilities.
- In addition, the proposed project would have no significant effect on aesthetics and biological resources.
- The proposed project would have less than significant effect on potential wetlands because the following mitigation measures would reduce potential effects to insignificance:
 - Mitigate for the loss of 0.0412 acres of wetlands through in-lieu fees paid to a USACE approved wetland mitigation bank.

John Webb, Chief
North Region Environmental Services
California Department of Transportation

Date